

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)  
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON  
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Rickey D. Hart et al.  
Serial No.: 09/340,584  
Filing Date: 06/28/99  
Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
USING THE SAME  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: W. Lewis  
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-15 CON 2

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please insert:

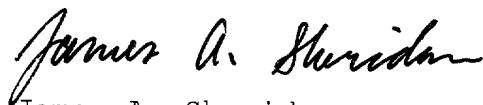
-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Application

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/340,584, filed 06/28/99 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME, which in turn is a continuation of prior application Serial No. 09/174,814, filed 10/19/98 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME, which in turn is a continuation of prior application Serial No. 08/560,111, filed 11/17/95 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME. --

Remarks

As noted in the accompanying REQUEST FOR FILING RULE 1.53(B) CONTINUATION APPLICATION, this is a continuation of pending prior application Serial No. 09/340,584, filed 06/28/99 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME, which is a continuation of prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/174,814, filed 10/19/98 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME, which is a continuation of prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/560,111, filed 11/17/95 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME. The above amendment is intended to make this fact of record in the specification of this continuation application.

Respectfully submitted,



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